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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]

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Attached is the information you requested on Soviet aid to Syria for transmittal to

[Redacted]

4 April 1974
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Distribution: (S-6072)

Orig & 1 - Addressee

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[Redacted]

(4 Apr 74)

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The Soviet-Syrian Aid Relationship

Though hardly a new demonstration of support, the Soviet response to the Syrian crisis reinforces the relationship that was strengthened after the expulsion of Soviet military advisers from Egypt in mid-1972. Since then, Damascus has become the major focus of Soviet military assistance in the Third World.

Moscow's arms deliveries to Syria reached a record \$700 million in 1973, nearly six times the previous record of \$125 million in 1972. They were also by far the largest deliveries to any of the Arab belligerents. Before the October War, Moscow had shipped \$250 million worth of equipment

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After hostilities began,

Moscow delivered an additional \$450 million worth of equipment that included jet fighter aircraft, SAM equipment, tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, anti-tank missiles, OSA-class guided missile patrol boats, and large quantities of ammunition and spare parts.

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Syria also depends on Communist countries for a major part of its economic development assistance. Commitments from all the Communist countries (the Soviet share was 45%) during recent years have accounted for about 90% of Syria's total aid from official bilateral sources outside the Arab world. Nevertheless, during the October war, economic emergency assistance was slow in coming from Syria's Communist supporters. Moscow is not known to have rendered any assistance, although it was reported to have pledged help for the reconstruction effort.

Before hostilities broke out, the first stage of the Euphrates Dam, being built with \$133 million of Soviet credits extended in 1966, was completed. This was the most eventful occasion in the Soviet-Syrian 16-year economic aid relationship. The July celebration marked the diversion of the river to a coffer dam adjoining the nearly completed 200-foot rock-filled dam.

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Table 5

Soviet Trade with Syria 1/

	Million Current US \$		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Soviet Exports 2/</u>	<u>Soviet Imports 3/</u>
1970	55	46	19
1971	87	58	29
1972	136	71	65

1. Data are from official Soviet Trade Yearbooks. 1972 is the last year for which data are available.
2. Soviet exports are comprised largely of machinery and equipment semi-finished goods and consumer goods.
3. Cotton, wool, and industrial products are the major Soviet imports from Syria. The USSR (together with East European countries) has been buying all of Syria's crude oil exports, all believed to be destined for Eastern Europe.

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